The Chivalry of a Failed Knight
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Chapter 2
Raws: GGO
TI: SHINJI.K
Pr: Luminair
QC: kobe, SHINJI.K
UNDERDOG X MAL
#UNDERDOG at IRCHighway

SHE CAN'T WIN AGAINST HER CURIOSITY....!?
ドキ ドキ
SO THIS IS... A MAN'S BODY...
Hah...
Hah...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

落第騎士の英雄譚
A TALE OF WORST ONE
キャバルリィ

HER GAZE LIES AT A DISTANT HEIGHT...

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CHARACTER DESIGN: WON

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Chapter 2: The Reason to Fight

AROUND HALF AN HOUR AGO...
405
.....HMM.
THIS IS...
A DORM ROOM?

THAT'S RIGHT...

I DID A MOCK BATTLE WITH KUROGANE IKKI AND I-...

LOST.

KNOCK KNOCK

YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S A HANDICAPPED FIGHT, BUT HE'S A MAN WHO'S WON AGAINST ME.

HE'S NOT SOMEONE YOU CAN WIN AGAINST AT PRESENT.

I'VE FORGOTTEN FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.

SO THIS IS HOW LOSING FEELS.

WINNING AGAINST THE WORLD RANKING'S THIRD PLACER, 《WORLD CLOCK》... WHAT THE HECK IS THAT.

HOW IS HE...!?

はっ

HE'S FINE.
HE'S MUCH MORE INJURED THAN YOU, BUT HIS LIFE ISN'T IN ANY DANGER.
《ITTOU SHURA》 IS A ONE-DAY, ONE-USE NOBLE ART THAT IGNORES EVEN HIS LIMITER TO RELEASE HIS FULL STRENGTH.
ONCE HE USES IT, HE'LL FALL WEAK AFTER A MINUTE.
WELL, HE DOES SEEM TO HAVE ENOUGH SPARE STRENGTH TO GET BACK TO HIS ROOM BY HIMSELF.
MISS DIRECTOR... JUST WHAT IS THIS GUY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WHAT"?

BUT I CAN NEVER ACCEPT THAT A STUDENT AS UNWORLDLY AS HIM WOULD REPEAT A YEAR!

PLEASE DON'T PLAY INNOCENT!

I UNDERSTAND HOW HE'S RANKED F DUE TO HIS LACK OF SKILL POINTS.

THERE'S NO WAY AN ACADEMY ENTRUSTED WITH THEIR TRAINING WOULD LET HIM FAIL JUST BECAUSE OF LACK OF CREDITS!

I KNOW WELL ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT THE EXISTENCE OF STRONG MAGIKNIGHTS IS FOR A NATION.

WELL, THE LACK OF CREDITS WHATSOEVER IS JUST THE FRONT OF THE ACADEMY'S SIDE.

I GUESS A PRINCESS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BUY THAT...

HEY, VERMILLION.

DOES THE SURNAME "KUROGANE" NOT RING A BELL TO YOU?

NOT REALLY... NOT AT ALL.

WHEN IT COMES TO JAPANESE NAMES, I THINK THE ONLY ONE I CAN RECALL IS THE ONE WHO LED JAPAN TO VICTORY IN THE WORLD WAR II,

THE HERO 『SAMURAI RYOUMA』-...

COME TO THINK OF IT, HIS FULL NAME IS...

RIGHT, IT'S 『KUROGANE RYOUMA』

YOU CAN SAY HE'S KUROGANE'S GREAT-GRAND-FATHER.

THE KUROGANE HOUSE PRODUCES GENERATIONS OF EXCELLENT BLAZERS BESIDES HIM.

THAT SAID, IT IS A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY BEARING A VERY STRONG INFLUENCE TO THE BLAZER WORLD.

"DO NOT LET KUROGANE IKKI, THE STRAY WHO RAN AWAY FROM THE HOUSEHOLD, TO EVER GRADUATE", THEY SAID.

THAT HOUSE PUT PRESSURE TO THE ACADEMY.

ON TOP OF THAT, THE FAMILY OF SAMURAI RYOUMA WHO LED JAPAN. IF THEY PRODUCE AN "F RANK", IT WOULD HURT THE FAMILY'S NAME. THAT'S THE REASON THEY GAVE.

A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY...

THE FORMER DIRECTOR APPROVED IT,

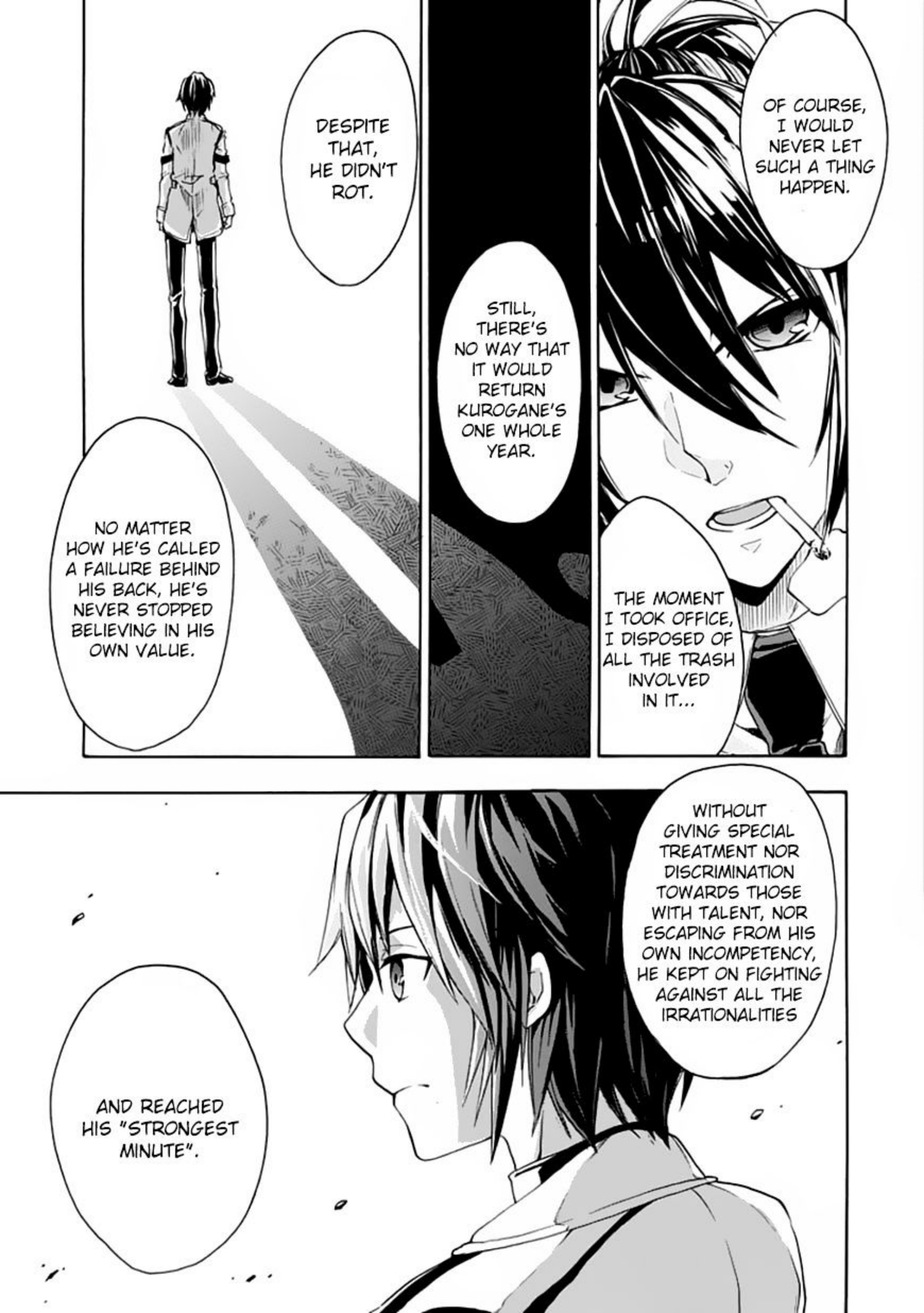
WENT HIS WAY TO CREATE A MINIMAL LEVEL AS A REQUIREMENT FOR TAKING THE PRACTICAL COMBAT COURSES,

AND MADE IT SO THAT KUROGANE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE CLASSES.

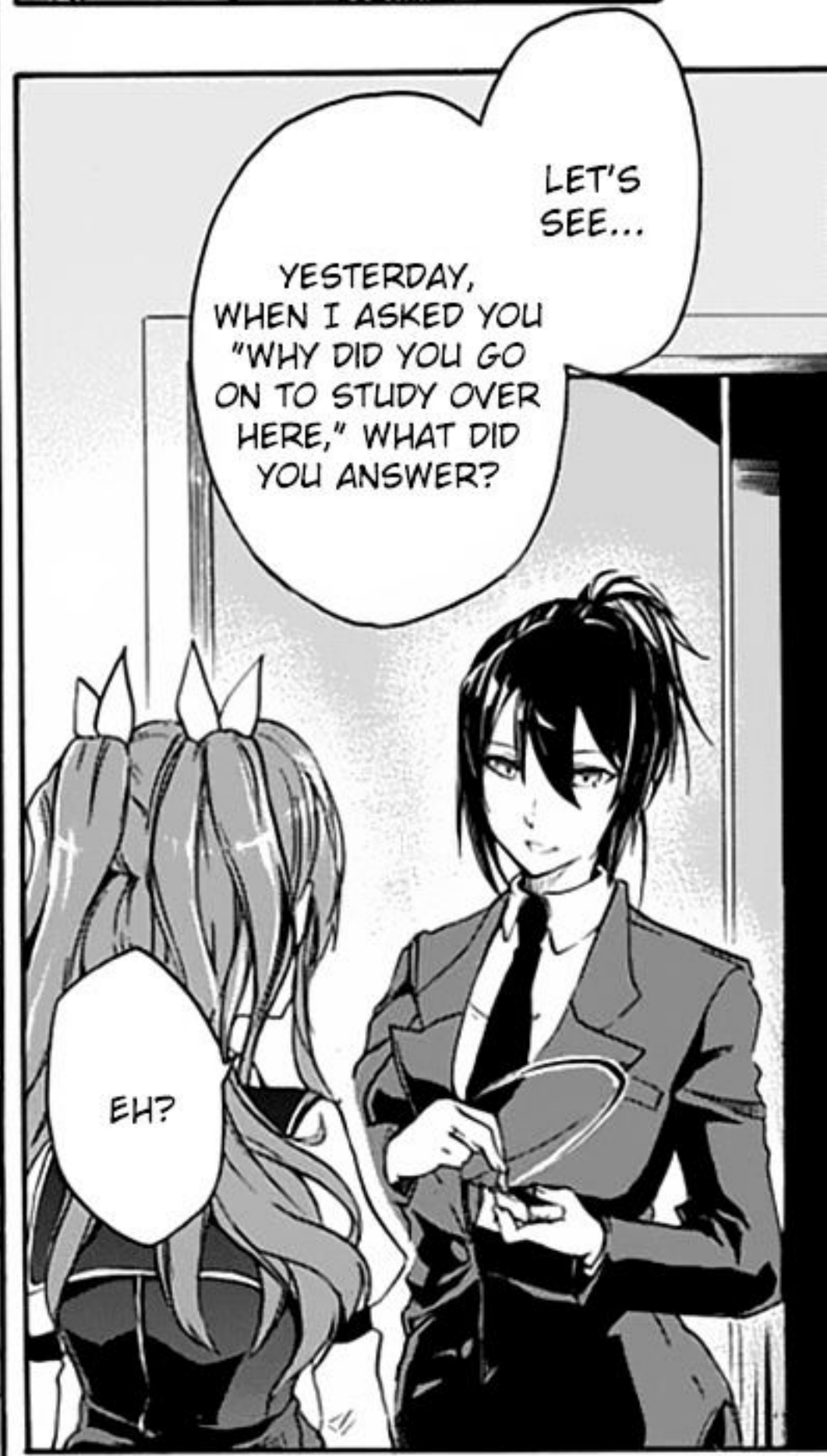
AS A RESULT OF COURSE, HE LACKED CREDITS AND BECAME A REPEATER... THAT'S JUST HOW IT WAS.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT...

IS THAT WHAT A PARENT... A TEACHER'S SUPPOSED TO DO!?


DESPITE THAT, HE DIDN'T ROT.
NO MATTER HOW HE'S CALLED A FAILURE BEHIND HIS BACK, HE'S NEVER STOPPED BELIEVING IN HIS OWN VALUE.
STILL, THERE'S NO WAY THAT IT WOULD RETURN KUROGANE'S ONE WHOLE YEAR.
OF COURSE, I WOULD NEVER LET SUCH A THING HAPPEN.
THE MOMENT I TOOK OFFICE, I DISPOSED OF ALL THE TRASH INVOLVED IN IT...
WITHOUT GIVING SPECIAL TREATMENT NOR DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS THOSE WITH TALENT, NOR ESCAPING FROM HIS OWN INCOMPETENCY, HE KEPT ON FIGHTING AGAINST ALL THE IRRATIONALITIES
AND REACHED HIS "STRONGEST MINUTE".

IT'S "BECAUSE IF I STAYED THERE, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO AIM HIGHER."



I HAVE TO GET STRONGER IN ORDER TO BECOME A KNIGHT CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THE VERMILLION EMPIRE.

THAT'S WHY IF I KEPT MYSELF THERE, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO GROW ANY FURTHER.

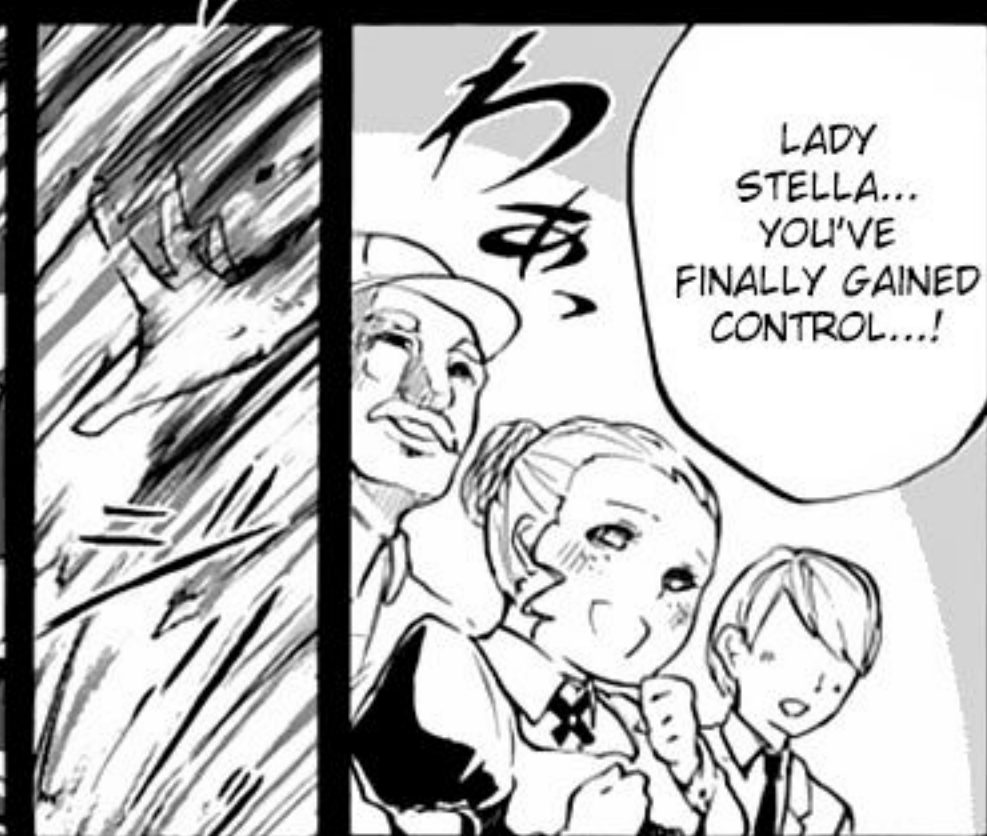
I'LL START THINKING THE SAME AND BECOME CONCEITED MYSELF.

BUT IF I'M SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO BIASEDLY SEE ME AS A "PRODIGY",

SFX: CLOSE

SFX: BLAZE

KYAAAAA!!
MILADY!?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LADY STELLA... YOU'VE FINALLY GAINED CONTROL...!

MILADY, SEEING YOU IN THAT STATE... IS TERRIBLY PAINFUL...

THERE ARE A LOT OF PATHS YOU CAN TAKE ASIDE FROM BEING A KNIGHT.

JUST HOW MANY TIMES HAS THIS HAPPENED ...?

PLEASE, LET'S STOP THIS ALREADY.

MILADY...!?

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP, NEVER...!

I KNOW MYSELF HOW HARD IT IS TO KEEP ON BELIEVING IN YOURSELF.

STILL, IN MY CASE, I HAD MY FLAME. I HAD MY TALENT AS ASSURANCE.

I WAS ABLE TO DO MY BEST SINCE I HAD SOMETHING IN SIGHT.

...BUT HOW ABOUT IKKI?

HE HAS LIMITED MANA, AND HIS NOBLE ART, HIS TRUMP CARD, WAS NOTHING BUT PHYSICAL REINFORCEMENT.

IT'S ALREADY PAINFUL WITH JUST THAT, YET THE ADULTS AROUND HIM EVEN GO THEIR WAY TO BLOCK HIS PATH.

KUROGANE ...

IKKI.

IN SPITE OF THAT, JUST HOW CAN HE KEEP ON BELIEVING ON HIMSELF...?

THE BACK OF A MAN...

I-IT'S FINE EVEN IF I TOUCH IT A BIT, RIGHT?

HE'S FACING THE OTHER WAY ANYWAY...

.....

THUMP

...Uwah

THUMP

I TOUCHED A MAN'S BACK FOR THE FIRST TIME...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

NOO! I CAN'T GET IT OUT!

Kyah

SFX: PULL

NO CHOICE...

SFX: THUMP

STILL, AFTER THAT...
HE DIDN'T WAKE UP...
PHEW...
A MAN'S STOMACH...
SFX: GULP
You're an unmarried lady... and a princess at that. For you to have interest in the body of a man who isn't even your lover.
Hey, what the hell are you thinking Stella!
It's too immodest!

...STILL
ちら...
SFX: SLIDE
HE SAW ME IN MY UNDERWEAR, SO WE'RE JUST QUITS!
IT'S MY PURE INTEREST TOWARDS THE KNIGHT WHO DEFEATED ME!
IT'S NOT AS IF I HAVE SUCH PERVERTED INTENT...
THIS IS... A MAN'S BODY
Hyah!

SFX: HAAH

SFX: SLIDE...

HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
...WH-
HAAH
What's... happening to me...
HAAH
HAAH

WELL, THAT'S ALSO WHAT I WANNA ASK.

Kyaa aaaaa ah!!

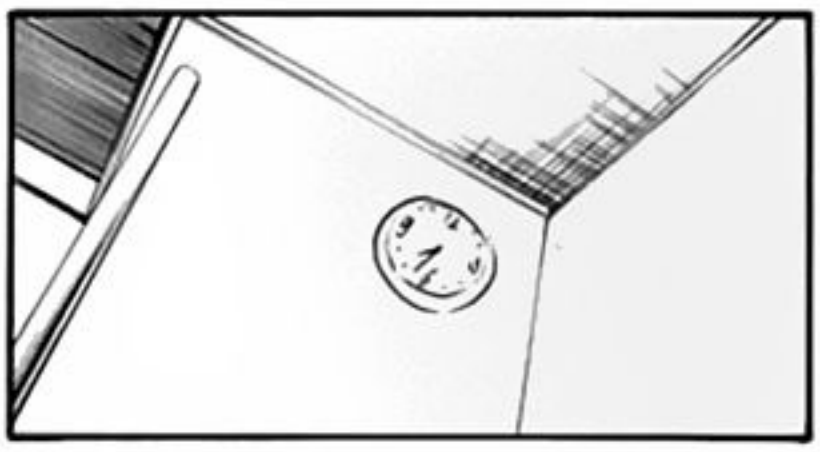
!!?

WAIT. IF YOU STAND UP JUST LIKE THAT-...

AHH I'M SO SORRY!
ほぎゃ!
STELLA-SAN!
SFX: THUD
ドン
That tomato juice came from inside you!
I SPILLED THE TOMATO JUICE THAT WAS ON THE FLOOR!

I'VE BEEN LIVING ON MY OWN SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL. THAT'S WHY.

...YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS, HUH.



KNOWING THAT, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME.

HEY

WHY IS SHE GOING OFF TELLING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S CIRCUM-STANCES?

WHY ARE YOU STILL AIMING FOR KNIGHTHOOD DESPITE HAVING TO FACE ALL THAT SUFFERING?

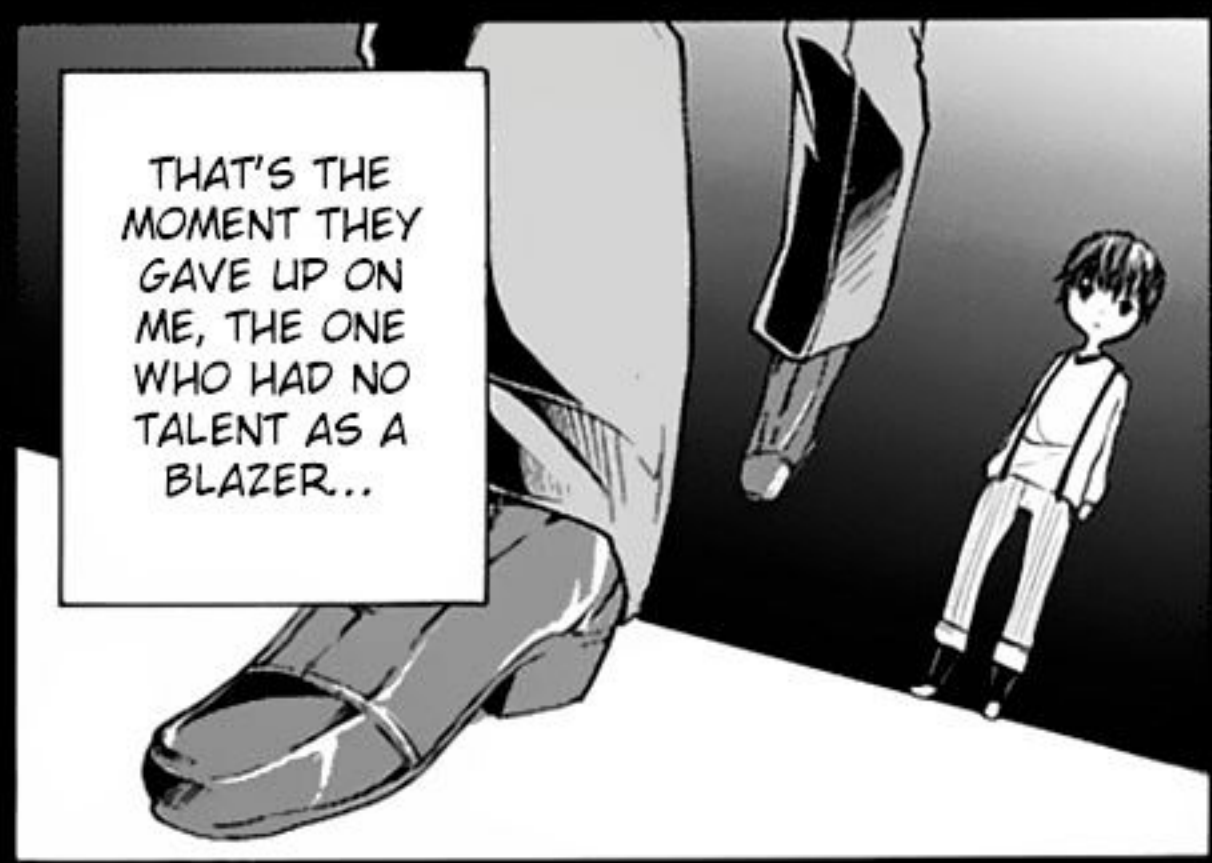
THAT'S BECAUSE... I HAVE A DREAM.

SO DON'T EVEN TRY TO DO ANYTHING."

"YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING

THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS MY FATHER LEFT ME ON MY FIFTH BIRTHDAY.

RIGHT AFTER MY FATHER'S, THE FAMILY HEAD'S WORDS, NEVER MIND MY PARENTS, MY RELATIVES TREATED ME AS "SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T EXIST".



WHEN THE WHOLE CLAN GATHERED THE NEW YEAR'S DAY SOME TIME AFTER THAT,

I LOCKED UP IN MY ROOM AND ISOLATED MYSELF FROM THE OUTSIDE AS USUAL.

SFX: HOLD

SFX: WAHAHA

THAT'S WHY I ESCAPED FROM THERE.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE AGAINST THE LAUGHING VOICES THAT CAME TO MY EARS.

SFX: JUMP

ヒュオオ
オオ

WH-WHAT DO I DO ...?
THE PATH...

IT'S GETTING DARK...
IT'S COLD.
EVEN IF I DIE HERE...

WHY...

WHY WON'T ANYONE BELIEVE THAT I CAN GET STRONGER?

I'M SURE NO ONE WILL MIND...

Uwa aa

EVEN THOUGH I STILL

CAN'T GIVE UP MYSELF

aa a

ahhhh

HEY, KID.
THAT GRAIN OF FRUSTRATION IS PROOF THAT YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON YOURSELF.
DON'T YOU THROW THAT AWAY.
AS LONG AS THERE'S A WILL NOT TO GIVE UP, HUMANS CAN ACHIEVE JUST ANYTHING.
AT ANY RATE,
HUMANS WERE THE SAME CREATURES WHO WERE ABLE TO GET TO THE MOON DESPITE NOT HAVING WINGS.

SINCE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT IT'S FINE NOT TO GIVE UP...

I WAS REALLY HAPPY.

AND THOSE WORDS WERE DIRECTLY FROM RYOUMA-SAN'S MOUTH.

I'LL BE AN ADULT WHO CAN TELL HIM THAT "IT'S FINE NOT TO GIVE UP."

THAT'S WHY I DECIDED THAT MOMENT.

THAT WHEN I FIND SOMEONE IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES AS ME,

BUT FOR THAT END, I HAVE TO BECOME STRONG.
OR ELSE, MY WORDS WILL END UP BEING JUST POOR EXCUSES.
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I CAN'T JUST GIVE UP RIGHT HERE.
IF I AIM TO BE AS STRONG AS KUROGANE RYOUMA,
THEN I SHOULD AT LEAST BECOME A SEVEN STARS SWORD KING.
...THAT'S YOUR DREAM...
I UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S NOT SOMETHING EASY.

...AH.

IF OTHERS TELL YOU TO "GIVE UP" THE DREAM YOU CAN NEVER GIVE UP,

CAN YOU, STELLA-SAN, OBEDIENTLY GIVE UP?

BUT YOU SEE,

YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.

AS IF I'LL GIVE UP WITH JUST A LARGE BURN OR TWO!

THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT WON'T PASS AS A REASON TO GIVE UP... FOR THE BOTH OF US.

IT'S NOT WHETHER IT WILL COME TRUE OR NOT.

IT'S THAT THE BOTH OF US JUST CAN'T ASSUME THAT WE CAN'T WITHOUT EVEN DOING IT.

SINCE WE HATE LOSING!

I FEEL I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DIRECTOR WAS SAYING NOW.
HAHH...
BECAUSE OF TRIVIAL CONCEPTS LIKE GENIUS AND MEDIOCRITY, I FAILED TO SEE THE REAL YOU.
IT'S MY COMPLETE LOSS.
IF I JUST CHASE HIS BACK, I'LL CERTAINLY GET STRONGER...
THIS ENCOUNTER WAS WHAT I WAS YEARNING FOR.
THEN, SINCE I WON.

STELLA-SAN IS MY SERVANT NOW, RIGHT?

SFX: SMILE

EH?

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LOOK, DIDN'T YOU SAY "THE LOSER WILL SUBMIT TO THE WINNER FOR HIS WHOLE LIFE?"

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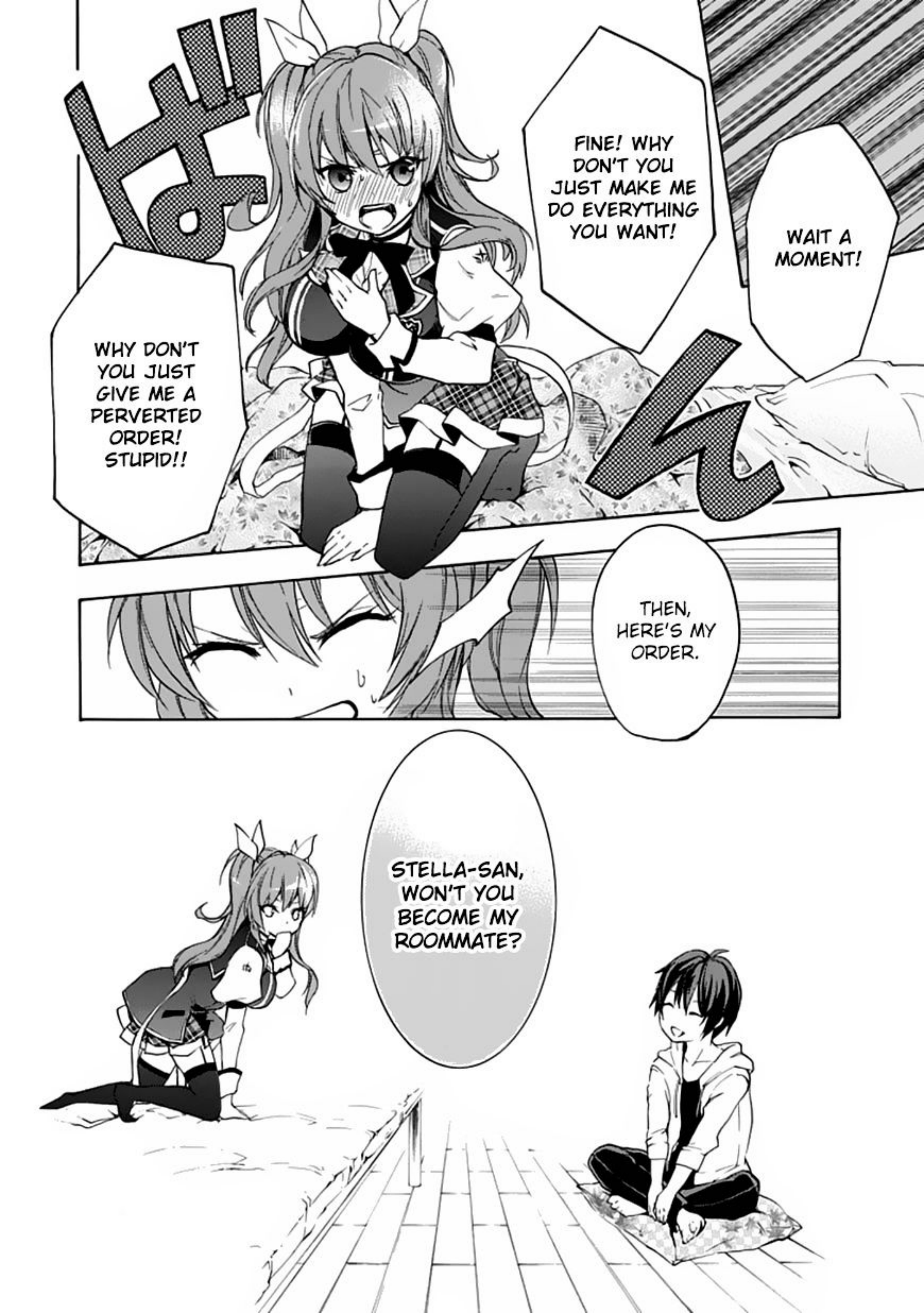
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WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE ME A PERVERTED ORDER! STUPID!!
FINE! WHY DON'T YOU JUST MAKE ME DO EVERYTHING YOU WANT!
WAIT A MOMENT!
THEN, HERE'S MY ORDER.
STELLA-SAN, WON'T YOU BECOME MY ROOMMATE?

I FELT IT WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING. THAT WE'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GET ALONG QUITE WELL.

AND MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE,

SFX: SURPRISED

I'LL GO ASK THE DIRECTOR TO LEND YOU ANOTHER ROOM.

SHARING A ROOM WITH A GUY.

Y-YOU HATE IT AFTER ALL, HUH!?

Beautiful, and now you want to get closer. You really don't have even a bit of sensibility, do you!?

Be-

B-

...I!!

I-I SAID!

...EH?

.....DON'T IT.....

I-

I DON'T HATE IT...

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE SINCE IT'S AN ORDER!!

I'D BE BOTHERED IF YOU COME TO THINK THAT THE VERMILLION ROYALTY ARE ALL LIARS,

BUT I'M DEFINITELY NOT THINKING OF THINGS LIKE WANTING TO BE CLOSER TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

WELL, LET'S GET ALONG FROM NOW ON, STELLA-SAN.

UMM... I GUESS I CAN TAKE THAT AS AN OKAY.

Hmph!

THAT'S BANNED.

YOU SAID "STELLA-SAN!" IKKI IS MY MASTER AND IS OLDER THAN ME.

DROP THE HONORIFICS.

THAT?

SFX: STARE...

SO WHO'S THE ONE WHO SAID HE WANTS TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH THAT PRINCESS?

EHH

STELLA-SAN, YOU'RE A REAL PRINCESS, SO THAT'S A BIT...

ANYWAY!

IF YOU WON'T CALL ME STELLA, I WON'T RESPOND!

AIMING FOR THE PEAK, HAND IN HAND-...